

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-22 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 12, 13, 15 and 18 have been amended. Claims 3 and 14 have been canceled. No new matter has been presented.

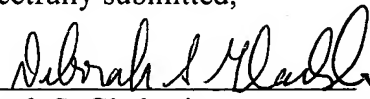
Claims 1-2 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Shaffer, U.S. Patent No. 7,023,839. This rejection is respectfully overcome in view of the foregoing amendments. Claims 1-2 and 12-13 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 14, respectively. Accordingly, these claims should be allowable. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122020700.

Dated: December 18, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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